

Review of Administrative Issues Related to the Interconnection Process

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Agenda – October 31, 2022

9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. We will need to get through the first four items on the agenda fairly quickly because the issues in item V are time-sensitive.
 - b. Documents to be familiar with – PUC 4-1 and PUC Set 5 (5-3, 5-5, 5-6, 5-7).
- II. Update on RI Energy’s progress toward the ISA cost format change, with a template
- III. Update on Dan Glenning’s suggestion that RI Energy may be able to provide project progression and cost updates to developers periodically
- IV. Staff’s Suggested Concepts
 - a. Customers should pay for the costs they cause and not pay for the costs they don’t cause.
 - i. General ratemaking principle
 - ii. Interconnection – system modification vs. system improvement
 - b. Everyone benefits from an efficient market.
 - i. The purpose of a well-designed market is to send the right price signal to those who make the investment decisions to ensure the most cost-effective projects get built.
 - 1. Decision makers should have sufficient information to make cost-effective decisions to pursue the most cost-effective investments.
 - a. Others’ decisions that affect you should be transparent.
 - 2. The decision maker should bear some risk of their decisions.
 - a. Utility, developers, and load customers are all decision-makers to some extent. For this exercise, we are focused on the utility and DG developers as decision-makers.
 - 3. Cost savings are a benefit. Transferring costs from one set of customers to another is not cost savings.
 - ii. If someone makes a decision that can lower costs for the same outcome, they should be better off and not worse off.
 - 1. Developers should be in a position to self-build civil work if they can save money.
 - 2. If they are successful, they should not be in a worse financial situation than if the Company would have constructed the same scope of work.
 - c. Transparency will benefit decision-makers
 - i. There should be a transparency to RI Energy’s design/construction standards and to the extent they deviate from that design/construction standard, RI Energy should have the burden of showing why such a deviation is necessary.
 - ii. The granularity of transparency of utility decisions when considering planning and investment for the entire system may be different than if the customer is responsible for the cost.

1. Something that is a minor cost for a utility may be a barrier to interconnection.
 2. There may be a reason to provide more transparency to generation than to new load interconnections.
- V. Review of the law and tariff and identification of areas where there could be interpretation as to timing
 - a. Scenarios may be presented by RI Energy for discussion
 - b. Tiverton Project - identified as a project that includes potential acceleration and cost contribution, necessitated by DG investment and reliability needs for load.
 - c. Identification of issues most important to developers and where there are ratemaking decision points that will need to be considered by the Division and Commission in various proceedings.
 - d. Process for Commission review
- VI. Next Steps